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**Godoy, Jose F.** *Porfirio Diaz, President of Mexico.* Pp. xii, 253. Price, \$2.00. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1910.

At a time when so many misstatements are being circulated with reference to Mexico it is a relief to read a book which is written with a due sense of proportion. Everyone who has had an opportunity to study economic and social conditions in Mexico has been impressed with the enormous difficulties confronting the country owing to the fact that at least ninety per cent of the population is Indian, and that the present government has fallen heir to the results of the long period of neglect and oppression which characterized the Spanish colonial system. Anyone who has given serious study to the administration of public affairs in Mexico during the last twenty-five years cannot help but be impressed not only with the economic advance of the country, but with the great effort that has been made with limited resources to raise the level of the mass of the population. In a country covering so large an area, sparsely settled, and with a population in which the desire for education must be inculcated, it is a matter of surprise to everyone how much has been done.

The value of Mr. Godoy's book is in the dispassionate presentation of the record of accomplishment. It is a matter of special importance that we in the United States should realize clearly that the conditions so sensationalized set forth in newspapers and magazines are not characteristic of Mexico as a whole; just as the existence of peonage in the southern states is no true indication of social conditions in the United States. This work will contribute in no small measure toward overcoming the unfavorable comments on Mexican conditions which have recently been so numerous and widespread.

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**Hall, T. C.** *Social Solutions in the Light of Christian Ethics.* Pp. 390. Price, \$1.50. New York: Eaton & Mains, 1910.

Without regard to confessional interests no student of society can afford to be ignorant of the social teachings of Jesus and Paul. It is therefore a matter of congratulation that Professor Hall voluntarily becomes the teacher of a wider group than those fortunate enough to sit under his personal instruction. As the author points out, "the various chapters divide themselves readily into three groups: those dealing with a transformation of society with the emphasis on the individual; those dealing with an equally radical transformation of society with the emphasis on the group; then follow chapters upon schemes for social amelioration without radical departure from the present social order."

In the whole discussion the effort is made accurately to present the "ethical outlook of Jesus and Paul" and then to interpret in the midst of twentieth century conditions and problems the logical attitude of "the Chris-

tian socially thinking man." The large variety of topics treated in the thirty-two chapters, the last of which is a Selected Bibliography of great value to the student, reveals not only the breadth of scope to which the author applies his principles, but as well the poise and balance of a trained and disciplined mind. The fact that the book is frankly propagandist in purpose detracts little from its fairness and scientific accuracy. The book will give information to the student, sanity to the reformer, and inspiration to the Church. It is a valuable contribution to Christian social literature.

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**Seligman, E. R. A.** *The Shifting and Incidence of Taxation.* (3 ed.) Pp. xii, 427. Price, \$3.00. New York: Columbia University Press, 1910.

The third edition of Professor Seligman's very scholarly work on Incidence of Taxation makes mention in its historical part of some writers omitted in previous editions, includes a fuller discussion of taxes on agricultural land, also of urban real estate, brings in new material on mortgage taxation, and introduces a discussion of stock and produce exchange taxes.

The results of the New York investigation of 1906 into the reflection of mortgage taxes in interest rates are clearly and concisely given; also the results of the effect of local financial and economic conditions on the question of the shifting of the mortgage tax, as indicated in the investigation made by Professor T. S. Adams in Wisconsin and neighboring states (pp. 335-36). The author shows clearly the tendency of produce and stock exchange taxes to reflect themselves in the values of produce and of stocks (pp. 384-85).

It might be suggested that practical convenience had something to do with influencing the parlor car companies to pay the one-cent tax on parlor car tickets instead of shifting it to the passenger, and that the same factor of convenience played some part in inducing the telephone companies in the face of a one-cent tax to reduce fifteen-cent messages to ten cents (pp. 380-81).

Mention should be made of the clearness with which the author shows the place of economic friction in taxation, and also both the value of the doctrine of incidence and its limitations, as an aid to, but not as a substitute for the necessary study of economic justice.

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**Shackleton, E. H.** *The Heart of the Antarctic.* 2 vols. Pp. lxx, 817. Price, \$10.00. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1909.

These volumes are the record of the British expedition in the years 1907 to 1909, during which the British flag was planted within about one hundred geographical miles of the South Pole. That the pole itself was not reached was due to the lack of provisions necessary for the further advance, as when